University to Salute Outstanding Graduates at Convocation
Chancellor to Address Convocation Honoring Louise Scharf, Christopher Zaddach and Cristine Rose

T he top achievers of Cal State Northridge's Class of 2006 will be saluted at the university's annual Honors Convocation on Tuesday, May 30. Graduating scholars will be addressed by CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed at 6 p.m. on the lawn of the University Club.

Northridge’s highest honor for a graduating senior—the Wolfson Scholar award—this year will go to Louise Scharf, a finance and business honors major. In September, Scharf will begin work on a doctorate in molecular biology in the University of Chicago's Biological Sciences Division.

Instrumental in the development of the Honors “Women in Business Seminar,” the Simi Valley resident maintained a 3.97 grade point average while holding leadership positions in the Business Honors Association and on the Business Honors Student Advisory Committee.

Scharf’s interest in finance shares space in her life with another passion science. Raised in East Germany by her father, a physicist at Martin Luther University in Halle, and her physician mother, the Wolfson Scholar was ready for CSUN’s opportunities.

“If we don’t stop it,” said Allen of the warming and the effects it will have passionate about such issues as global warming and the effects it will have if we don’t stop it,” said Allen of the work, a nearly 700-page compendium of studies by 36 eminent ecologists, evolutionary biologists and ichthyologists, published in February by the University of California Press.

“One of the things I like about CSUN and the American undergraduate curriculum is that you can explore different things.”

—Lois Scharf
2006 Wolfson Scholar

Her favorite semester, said the honoree, was one in which she studied for the subject Graduate Record Examination while taking 25 units, a mixture of science and business that included three-three-hour lab classes. “Can you tell I like being in school?” she laughed.

Outstanding achievement awards also will be presented to:

Christopher Zaddach, recipient of the Nathan O. Freedman Memorial Award for Outstanding Graduate Student for 2006. Zaddach earned a 3.93 grade point average while pursuing his master's degree in clinical psychology at CSUN, and in fall 2006 will begin doctoral studies at Loyola University in Chicago.

Described as a “clear, critical and analytical thinker,” Zaddach accumulated clinical experience as a psychological assessment examiner in CSUN’s Child and Adolescent Assessment Clinic. He works with parents and caregivers of developmentally disabled children at the Parent-Child Interaction Program, Regional Center Los Angeles County/CSUN, among other duties.

Cristine Rose, recipient of the Association of Retired Faculty Memorial Award for graduate students. Rose, who maintained a 4.0 grade point average while earning her master's degree in theater, prepared a thesis that drew on her experience as a professional actor. Entitled “The Actor’s Role in American New Play Development: 1950-2000,” the thesis has drawn faculty praise as “a highly unique and valuable aspect of theater,” at the “forefront of performance research.”

New Book on Ecology of Fishes Making Waves in Marine World
Marine Biologist Larry Allen’s Illustrations Reveal Beauty, Variety of Fishes in Coastal Waters

T he Ecology of Marine Fishes,” Biology Department chair Larry Allen’s monumental new reference work on the fishes that inhabit the eastern Pacific—especially those in the waters off the California and Baja California coastlines—is making waves as a first-of-its-kind achievement summarizing a century of research.

Described as “a masterful accomplishment” by Peter Sale, a University of Windsor professor and an international authority on communities of fish in coral reef habitats, Allen's book is expected to earn a place as the primary text in university-level fish biology courses, and to serve as a cornerstone for future research in the field.

“It’s written by people who are passionate about such issues as global warming and the effects it will have if we don’t stop it,” said Allen of the work, a nearly 700-page compendium of studies by 36 eminent ecologists, evolutionary biologists and ichthyologists, published in February by the University of California Press.

“It’s the first of its kind dealing with marine fishes worldwide, but particularly in California.”

A $40,000 grant from the Packard Foundation, along with $8,000 from the American Fisheries Society, enabled Allen and his colleagues to publish the full-color volume. Packard family members—sisters Julie Packard and Nancy Burnett—are marine biologists whom Allen has known for years. “They have a strong focus on marine coastal education and research programs,” he said.

Resource agencies, political entities, fisheries management associations, Ecology of Fishes Book continued on page 5.
Fulbright Program Honors Both Faculty Member and Student
Mathematics Professor Shubin is Bound for Rwanda; Geography Student Baughn Heads for Indonesia

Cal State Northridge has earned double honors this year from the prestigious Fulbright Scholar Program, awarding a grant to mathematician professor Carol Shubin and a teaching assistantship to geography graduate student Lisa Baughn.

Shubin will depart for Rwanda in January 2007, to teach, develop university curriculum and share research. Baughn, who heads for Indonesia in July, will work on community literacy and cultural projects.

For Shubin, the award came at a time when she was ready to try new challenges. While browsing the Internet, she came across a message posted by University of Georgia math professor Dino Lorenzini, who had visited Rwanda in 1995. Lorenzini wrote that two graduate students were left to teach the subject on their own.

Rwanda has slowly begun to rebuild, but its continuing need for help was a challenge Shubin could not ignore.

Selected this spring as a Fulbright scholar, she will work in Kigali for six months in close association with the University of Rwanda’s mathematics faculty and help to establish curriculum for the institute’s mathematics and science departments.

Shubin will teach two math classes, share research, and conduct lectures on her creation of NASA/PAIR, a CSU project designed to strengthen students’ research, computer and analytic skills in order to understand NASA data sets.

“I hope that I will come back having accomplished all I have set out to do,” said Shubin.

Lisa Baughn will implement a community literacy and American culture project in her Indonesian neighborhood, offering reading and writing instruction.

Another reason was her “fascination for the rich diversity that surely abounds in a country comprised of thousands of islands. I am at a point in my life where I am really open to a new way of living. I’m ready to explore something different,” said Baughn, who currently tutors undergraduate geography students at CSUN.

“Lisa is the first Fulbright student award receiver at CSUN in as long as I can remember,” said Justine Su, coordinator of International Programs.

Encouraged to enter the program by Heddy Carpenter, associate director for graduate programs, and Geography Department chair Antonia Hussey, Baughn said she chose Indonesia because of her familiarity with Asia, having spent time in Tibet as an undergraduate.

Sponsored by the U.S. State Department, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Fulbright program awards grants to U.S. citizens and nationals of other countries for a range of educational activities.

Research and Sponsored Projects

Nancy Burstein and Sue Sears (Special Education) received $729,147 from the Los Angeles County Office of Education in continuing support of a project titled “California State University, Northridge/Antelope/Santa Clarita Valley SELPA-Special Education Intern Program.”

Robert Carpenter and Peter Edmunds (Biology) received $100,000 from the National Science Foundation in support of a project titled, “Long term dynamics of a coral reef ecosystem.”

James Castro, Werner Horn, and Helena Noronha (Mathematics) received $550,000 from the National Science Foundation in continuing support of the project titled, “Fellows Engaged as Resources in Mathematics to Assist Teachers.”

Deborah Chen (Special Education) received $35,068 from Oregon Health and Science University in continuing support of a project titled “Validation of Evidence-Based Assessment Strategies to Promote Achievement in Children Who Are Deaf-Blind.”

Katherine Dabbour (University Library) received $34,576 from the U.S. Department of Education in support of the project titled “Improving Student Success through Strengthening Library Collections, Archives, and Information Competence.”

Shawna Dark and Ron Davidson (Geography) received $50,500 from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority in support of the project titled “San Gabriel River Watershed Historical Ecology Project.” In addition, Dark received $62,815 from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority in support of the project titled “Present Day Mapping of the San Gabriel Watershed.”

Peter Edmunds (Biology) received $5,994 from the National Science Foundation in supplemental support of the project titled, “RUI: Long-Term Coral Reef Dynamics in the U.S. Virgin Islands: 1987-2008 (REU Supplement).”

Maria Elena de Bellard (Biology) received $8,280 from Davidson College in support of the project titled “Effect of Silt on Neural Crest Migration.”

Alan Glassman (Management) received $1,363,095 from the Department of General Services in continuing support of the project titled, “California Procurement and Contracting Academy (Cal-PCA).” Glassman received $50,000 from the Legislative Counsel of California in continuing support of the project titled “Legal Division Year #2.” He also received $24,800 from the Legislative Counsel Bureau as supplemental support of the project titled, “Strategic Plan Implementation at LDC.”

Javier Hernandez (Outreach and Recruitment) received $215,879 from the California Council for Education in continuing support of the project titled “GEAR UP STEPS Projects.”

Nicholas Kioussis (Physics and Astronomy) received $202,997 from the California State University, Long Beach, in support of the project titled “Role of PPAR-Gamma Isoforms in Regulation of Macrophage apoE and LL Expression.”

Steve Oppenheimer (Biology) received $15,000 from CSUN’s Academic Affairs division for performing undergraduate student research courses: uncoupling of credits, seat time and learning through year round operation. He and Virginia Vanderagon (Biology) also received $60,000 from the UC Regents in support of the “San Fernando Valley Project.”

Ryoichi Seki (Physics and Astronomy) received $15,000 from the Department of Energy in continuing support of the project “Nuclear Lattice Calculation.”

Gerry Simila (Geological Sciences), Steve Oppenheimer and Virginia Vanderagon (Biology) received $28,470 from the UC Regents in continuing support of the project titled “San Fernando Valley Science Project.”

Michael Summers (Biology) received $148,012 from the National Institutes of Health in support of the project titled “CSUN Bridges to the Doctorate.”

Ivor Weiner (Special Education) received $202,997 from the California Department of Education in continuing support of the project titled “Family Focus Center-Family Empowerment.”

Maria Elena Zavala (Biology) received $479,278 from the National Institutes of Health for MARC Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research, and $2,500 from the CSU San Marcos Foundation in support of a project titled “Multisite Study (R56).”
Web-Based Interlibrary Loan System is Easier, Faster

Faculty, Staff and Students Use New Software to Order Books and Articles from Off-Campus

A new Web-based interlibrary loan program at the Oviatt Library is making it easier for faculty, staff and students to obtain articles, books, book chapters and dissertations not held in the Oviatt’s collections.

Before the improved loan program, campus users had to fill out orders for such items manually, leaving room for errors. In order to track ordered materials, they had to place phone calls or make in-person visits to the Oviatt’s interlibrary loan desk.

In fall 2005, however, Oviatt Library Dean Susan Curzon announced the launch of the new service, eliminating the paper blizzard and making it possible to track orders or read ordered materials on one’s own computer screen.

Because it’s automated, this service is really a big step forward,” said Oviatt Library Associate Dean Marianne Afifi. “The guesswork is taken out of the process. The correct title, the correct author, the correct identifying codes, everything in this system is automatic.

It saves everybody time.”

—Marianne Afifi, Oviatt Library Associate Dean

“...the correct author, the correct identifying codes, everything in this system is automatic.

It saves everybody time.”

-Patrons register online at http://illiad.csun.edu/ and receive individual profiles, said interlibrary loan supervisor Felicia Cousin. There is no need to download any software to use the program, which is accessible 24 hours a day from any computer with Internet access.

“Accessing your library profile, you can submit a request and track its progress at every stage, from the moment you submit a request all the way to its delivery,” she said. “Patrons can also use the profiles to view their own permanent ordering histories, particularly useful for faculty in compiling bibliographies.”

Articles and book chapters from other CSU campuses or from other libraries in or outside of the country are delivered electronically. Once received, they are available to the requester online for 30 days, to be perused as many times as desired within that period. “A patron will receive an e-mail saying that an ordered item is available,” said Cousin, “then simply goes back into the profile, clicks on the transaction number and the material comes up as a PDF file on the desktop.”

To get books, maps or other materials that are not available electronically, users are alerted to deliver via e-mail, but must come to the library for pick up.

Open to current and emeritus faculty, current students and staff, the service is largely free of charge, but there are limits on interlibrary loan subsidies, based on previous year spending patterns. The interlibrary loan office staff will handle questions at interlibrary.loan@csun.edu.

Those unfamiliar with the service can contact the interlibrary staff at (818) 677-2294 for help. “We will happily walk you through the steps for using the new system,” said Cousin. “We’ll show you three, five times if need be. We really want you to use the service to be comfortable with it, and have a positive experience with it.”

Presentations

Joannie Aguayo (Child and Adolescent Development), Linda Bowen (Journalism), David Diaz (Chicano/o Studies), Jan Fish (Educational Psychology and Counseling), Lynn Gordon (Elementary Education), August Hoffman (Psychology), Amy Levin (Social Work), Elizabeth Nady-Shadman ( Geological Sciences), Ward Thomas (Urban Studies and Planning), and Virginia Vanderge (Biology) presented the results of their recent scholarship at the First California State University Conference on Community-Based Teaching and Research at Cal Poly Pomona in March.

Tony Arthur (English) was part of a panel discussion, “Against the Grain: Literary Lives,” at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books on April 30. He also discussed his upcoming biography, “Upton Sinclair: Radical Innocent.” He was interviewed by Debbie Elliot about the Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti murder case, on National Public Radio’s March 4 “All Things Considered” program.

Dorothy Barresi (English) presented a paper on poetic closure at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Chicago. She also chaired a panel titled “The Writerly Contexts of Science and Engineering.” In April, Clark organized Cal State Northridge’s composition conference. “The Contexts of Composition II: Addressing Writing in Schools and Beyond.”

Irene Clark (English) participated in the Research Network Forum on a panel titled “Literacies across the Discipline: New Instantiations” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Chicago. She also chaired a panel titled “The Writerly Contexts of Science and Engineering.” In April, Clark organized Cal State Northridge’s composition conference. “The Contexts of Composition II: Addressing Writing in Schools and Beyond.”

Ron Borczon (Music) gave the keynote address at the western regional conference of the American Music Therapy Association in March. Of the conference’s 28 sessions, seven were conducted by CSU graduates and clinicians.

Pamela Bourgeois and Lisa Riccomini (English) presented a paper titled “Colors of Composition: Clicking Your Way to Better Writing” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Chicago.

Michael Bryson (English) was interviewed in March for the “Intellectual Affairs” column of Inside Higher Ed, on poet John Milton’s defense of polygamy.

Meg Florio (English) presented the paper, “No Eddy La Cencicieta: A Feminist Fairy tale,” at the annual National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies Conference in Baton Rouge, La.

Leilani Hall (English) presented the essay, “The Order of the Disorder: Creative Writers in Disability Studies” at the Associated Writing Programs conference in Austin, Texas.

Yvette Harvey, Sandra Jones, Cherie Leggon and Norma Loera (Associated Students Children’s Center) gave presentations at The California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC) Conference held April 20-22. Harvey presented on parent/family relationships and support, Jones and Leggon on infants and toddlers, and Loera on curriculum.

Scott Kleinman (English) presented a paper entitled “Sanctifying Space: Locating England’s Heritage in the South English Legendary” at the Medieval Association of the Pacific Conference in Salt Lake City.

James Hogue (Biology) was an invited speaker at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America, where he gave an address entitled “Insects in sex (and love) insects and the amorous affairs of humans.”

Brian Leung and Leilani Hall (English) facilitated three sessions on creative writing pedagogy at the recent Associated Writing Programs (AWP) conference in Austin, Texas. This year, they also are serving as advisors to the AWP Pedagogy Forum Steering Committee.

Rick Mitchell (English) penned a paper, “Breath in L.A.,” which recently was presented as a staged reading by the Orlando Shakespeare Festival, as part of the Harriet Lake Festival of New Plays. He participated in post-show discussions with audience members.

Stephanie Satie (English) presented her one-woman show, “Coming to America—Transformations,” at Marymount College in March.

Mary Schaffer (Cinema and Television Arts) presented a paper titled “Internet and Voting—College Students Decision Making Process for Voting” at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu, in January.


Beth Wightman (English) presented “The Spaces of Irish Critics” at the annual meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies in St. Louis, in April.
Honors and Awards

Larry Allen (Biology) was elected president of the Western Society of Naturalists for the 2007 term. He will serve as president-elect for 2006.

Dorothy Barresi (English) was visiting writer in November 2005 at Ohio University and in December 2005 at New Mexico State University.

Irene Clark (English) was chosen to serve on the National Advanced Placement Language committee on March 31 and April 1 and 2. She helped develop materials for Advanced Placement examinations in language.

CSUN’s Spirit Squad placed first in the Open Collegiate Division of the National Cheerleaders Association competition, was awarded the Spirit Award for good competitive nature, and in April took first place in the Universal Cheerleaders Association West Coast Championship at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.

Robert Espinoza (Biology) was named “Outstanding Minority Professional” by the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Mona Houghton (English) penned a story, “A Brother, Some Sex, and an Optic Nerve,” which was chosen as the winner of the 2006 John Gardner Memorial Prize for Fiction.

Barbara Jordan (Aubrey) reached a milestone with her 100th softball coaching victory in a win over Pacific.

Scott Kleinman (English) was elected to the Medieval Association of the Pacific’s council, for a term of three years.

Carole Oglesby (Kinesiology) was recognized by the Research Consortium of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance for her outstanding service as chair of the Future Directions Committee Research Consortium during 2005-06.

Lisa Riccomini (English) is a 2006 recipient of the “Published Apple Award” from Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand and the University Ambassadors.

Stephanie Satie (English) has completed her first non-solo play, “Leon’s Dictionary.” The play has made Satie a semifinalist for a 2006 residency at the O’Neill Playwright’s Conference. Of nearly 800 plays submitted, hers was one of fewer than 100 considered for eight to ten slots. Satie recently received a grant from the California Council for the Humanities as part of the Council’s statewide California Stories Initiative.

Jack Solomon (English) is listed in the latest Marquis Who’s Who in American Education, and has been invited to be listed in the next Who’s Who in America.

The Tsng College of Extended Learning won a Best in Show First Place award from the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA) for the college’s recent print advertising campaign promoting Tsng College programs. It represented the second straight first place win for the college, and the first time any university has earned two consecutive wins.

The college’s marketing campaigns also won three gold awards, and a bronze award for its newsletter, in competition with higher education institutions nationwide. The college also recently won three Communicator Awards in a national marketing competition, an Award of Distinction in the advertising campaign category, and an Award of Distinction in the newsletter/educational institution category.

Publications

Tony Arthur (English) had his article, “The Novel That Shocked a Nation,” published in the Los Angeles Times Book Review as part of the review’s tribute to author Upton Sinclair on the centennial publication date of Sinclair’s “The Jungle,” in February. Arthur’s textbook/research, co-authored with John Broesamle (History), was reviewed as “Twelve Great Clashes That Shaped Modern America” in a revised and expanded trade edition by Pearson-Longman.

Lisa Banner, Larry Baressi, Cathy Coyle-Thompson, Stan Metzenberg, Steven Oppenheimer, and Mike Summers (Biology) had their paper, “Analyses of unconventional approaches to the rapid detection of surface lectin binding ligands on human cell lines,” published in the lead position of the Journal of Fish Biology. Hertel also had co-authored paper, “Birds from Chungungo, Tilajo and Pajaro Islands in north central Chile,” published in the Journal of Fish Ecology.

Scott Kleinman (English) had his chapter, “Service,” published in “Reading The Lord of the Rings: New Writings on Tolkien’s Classic.”

Rick Mitchell (English) had his article on the semantics of ventrilquial performance, “The Puppet in Laren’s Imagined Space: Ventrilquism, the Distant Voice and Invisible Puppetry,” published in the peer-reviewed section of Puppetry International, issue no. 19, spring/summer 2006.


Helen Castillo (Health & Human Development) co-authored a chapter, “Viewpoints—Bridging Cultures: Hispanics/Latinos and Nursing,” in the upcoming textbook, “Current Issues in Nursing.”

Peter Edmunds (Biology) co-authored the paper, “Scleractinian corals as facilitators: evidence for positive interactions between scleractinian corals and other reef invertebrates” for publication in Marine Ecology Progress Series. With Robert Carpenter (Biology), he co-authored “Local and regional scale recovery of Diadema promotes recruitment of scleractinian corals,” to be published in Ecology Letters. Edmunds also co-authored the paper, “Rapid phase-shift reversal on a Jamaican coral reef,” for publication in Coral Reefs.

Fritz Hertel, M.S. Gordon (Biology) and former instructor Dean Lauritzen had their paper, “A kinematic examination of wild sockeye salmon jumping up natural waterfalls,” published in the Journal of Fish Biology. Hertel also had his co-authored paper, “Birds from Chungungo, Tilajo and Pajaro Islands in north central Chile,” published in the Journal of Fish Ecology.

Mona Houghton (English) will have her story, “A Brother, Some Sex, and an Optic Nerve,” published in the summer issue of Harpur Palate. Another story, “The Night Sky,” is set for publication in Oracle Magazine.

Herman Rodriguez (Chicana Studies) had his CD of romantic Latin ballads, “Es Amor” produced by Stavash Shams at Valley Studios. All of the music and lyrics on the CD, released in February, were written by Rodriguez.

Jack Solomon (English) gave permission for his article, “Realism, Rhetoric, and Reification: Or the Case of the Missing Detective in ‘Our Mutual Friend’” to be reprinted.

Mark Stevens (Counseling Services) co-edited the book, “In the Room with Men: A Casebook of Therapeutic Change,” published in January by the American Psychological Association. The book explores theories of masculinities, current research on the psychology of men, and how these theories are applied in clinical practice.

University to Exhibit Prints from ‘Cheech’ Marin Collection

Works of 26 Prominent Artists Help Alumnus Marin Advance Recognition of Chicano Art

Fine art prints of paintings by 26 prominent Chicano artists, depicting urban life and the Chicano experience between 1969 and 2001, will be on view at Cal State Northridge next month in an exhibition entitled “The Chicano Collection/ La Colección Chicana: Fine Art Prints by Modern Multiples.”

Part of Marin’s effort to advance Chicano art as a recognized school of American art and to increase the public’s access to the artwork nationwide, the works will be exhibited at CSUN Art Galleries from June 17 through July 29, Monday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free. An opening reception is set for 7-10 p.m. Saturday, June 17.

Drawn from the collection of actor and art advocate Richard “Cheech” Marin, a CSUN alumnus, the exhibition features the work of Carlos Almaraz, George Yepes, Patssi Valdez, Leo Lmón, Margaret Garcia and other top Chicano artists.

As part of the project, high-quality digital reproductions (giclées) were made of original paintings. The giclées were donated to 50 major art museums and universities, including Northridge. CSUN will be the first of the recipients to display them.

“Chicano art is American art. My goal is to bring the term ‘Chicano’ to the forefront of the art world,” said Marin. “Using the most advanced technology available today, we are creating these important artistic expressions of the American experience as ‘time capsules’ to embed into top U.S. art collections and to expose them to the widest audience possible.”

“We are honored to receive such a generous gift of such important Chicano art from an alumnus of the university,” said William P. Tate, dean of CSUN’s College of Arts, Media, and Communication.

Marin, a third-generation Mexican American from East Los Angeles, was the 1999 recipient of the National Council of La Raza’s Kraft Foods Alima Community Service Award. His television credits include “Judging Amy” and the CBS drama, “Nash Bridges.” Recent films include “Once Upon a Time in Mexico” with Johnny Depp and “Christmas with the Kranks” with Tim Allen.

Since the 1960s, Marin has built an international reputation as a comedian, film actor, director, writer, musician, and art collector. His 1997 release, “My Name is Cheech, the School Bus Driver,” was the top-selling children’s album in the country.

Presenting sponsors of the exhibition tour are Bank of America and Farmers Insurance, with support from Starbucks Coffee Company, Univision 34, and CBIZ / KCAL 9.

In 2004, Bank of America and Farmers Insurance teamed with Marin to produce “The Chicano Collection/ La Colección Chicana.” Their generous support has funded all aspects of the multi-year project, from print production to portfolio donations as well as the exhibition tour.

“We’re proud of Bank of America’s role in bringing this dynamic project to fruition and in showcasing the prints at cultural venues that have long supported Chicano art,” said Leticia Aguilar, president of Bank of America-Los Angeles.

“Our investment in this educational project reflects Farmers’ continued commitment to recognizing the rich contributions of Latinos to American culture,” said Paul Hopkins, CEO of Farmers Group, Inc.

For more information about the exhibition, call Michelle Giucopuzzi at (818) 677-2156. To learn more about collection tour, the print project and the featured artists, visit www.thechicanocollection.net or contact Melissa Richardson Banks of CauseConnect, (213) 972-0884 or melissa@causeconnect.net.


Ecology of Fishes Book...

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virtually everyone with an interest in coastal resources and management will be able to turn to “The Ecology of Marine Fishes” as a vital resource, Allen said.

In its interpretation of the status—past, present and future—of the California coastline’s 500-plus species, the Allen-Pondella-Horn collaboration compiles “virtually all the many important studies on the ecology of California marine fishes,” according to another marine biology luminary, Bruce Collette of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Collette is past president of the 95-year-old American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, whose membership includes the crème de la crème of scientists who study fishes, amphibians and reptiles.

Praise from high places is “quite satisfying” for Allen, who began full-time teaching at CSUN in 1982 and has taught a range of courses from Biology 100 to graduate seminars. He is most delighted, however, with the reception that has greeted the book’s bright and detailed illustrations, all of which were computer-generated by Allen himself.

The intention was to make the artwork accessible to more than marine biologists,” he said.

Allen began painting with oils, mostly seascapes and portraits, at ten years old, winning his share of art awards. “It’s worked out well for me because bio-illustration is an important aspect of science and biology,” he said.

“I’ve used the art to enhance the science over the years.”

Jonathan Williams, a student in CSUN’s Nearshore Marine Fish Research Program, said he had only seen Allen’s illustrations in lectures. “To have them throughout the book,” he said, “is fantastic.”

Graduate students will find it “a dream come true,” said former Allen student and Scripps Institution of Oceanography doctoral candidate Brad Erismann. They will be able to tap one source “rather than having to spend countless hours tracking down old manuscripts.”

Fish ecology texts historically have focused on tropical species, said Erismann. “But that has all changed with this book. It provides a vast amount of information on the fishes that inhabit temperate waters.”

Students in the fall 2006 ecology of marine fishes course, to be taught by CSUN marine biologist Mark Steele and Allen on Santa Catalina Island as part of the Ocean Studies Institute’s Marine Biology Semester, will be the first to use the actual textbook; others have used materials from it in PDF form.

Rising scientists like Williams and Erismann may some day contribute to updated editions of the reference work, which took Allen 16 years, starting with the “thinking stage” in 1992 and the actual organization and writing eight years later.

“It has been,” said Allen, “a great learning experience.”

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Marine biologist Larry Allen, principal editor of “The Ecology of Marine Fishes,” created the book’s computer-generated images, such as this representative southern reef fish scene.
Gabriel Buelna, an adjunct faculty member in Cal State Northridge's Chicano/a Studies Department, is clocking full days sampling out a good deal of shoe leather in the countdown days to the 45th Assembly District election on June 6.

Buelna wants to represent the district of about 130,000 that includes portions of East Los Angeles, Echo Park, Atwater, Hollywood and Mt. Washington among its diverse populations.

Sixteen short years ago, candidate Buelna was a college-hopelul 17-year-old from South Central Los Angeles with a discouragingly low grade point average.

In the summer of 1990, a CSUN professor named Alberto Garcia, who had mentored Buelna's brother at CSUN, personally walked the young student to the university's Educational Opportunity Office and vouched for him.

Three years later, Buelna graduated with a degree in Chicano/a studies.

He proceeded to San Diego State, earned a master's degree in social work, and in 2002 received a doctorate in political science from the Claremont School of Politics and Economics.

His list of mentors rivals those of his three brothers, two of whom preceded him at CSUN. Chicano/a Studies Department chair Mary Pardo and Chicano/a studies faculty Rudy Acuna, David Rodriguez and Juana Mora are among them, he said.

"I learned a lot through my activism here at CSUN," Buelna said, serving as MEGA chair, as an Associated Students senator and as a resident assistant.

"I even met my wife here," he said. Pilar, Buelna’s wife of 11 years, has a bachelor's degree in English from CSUN, a master's in social work and serves on the staff of the Families in Schools non-profit educational organization.

It was Pilar, who solved at least one cause of the low G.P.A., which with him started college. "I have bad vision, and in high school you don't want to wear glasses, so I had stopped. My wife refused to date me unless I wore glasses."

A resident of Mt. Washington, Buelna left his job as executive director of Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission in Boyle Heights to focus on campaign.

He had oversight of two child care centers, an after-school program, an alternative school, a homeless shelter and a community safe passage program.

He serves on the boards of the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission, the Boyle Heights Learning Collaborative and others.

Teaching classes in economics, social institutions and history at CSUN, Buelna sees himself in many of his students. "I have high expectations of them, but I work with them to make sure they have the ability to be successful," he said. "I have to be a role model, someone they can go to when they do well and when they don't. That's how I got here."

May 27 CSUN Symposium to Shine Light on K-12 Scientists

Young Researchers are Proving Scientific Inquiry is Not Reserved for Adults

Is there a difference in the bone density of women in rural areas compared to women in urban areas? Do teenagers have better memories than adults? How do the differences in the gauges of magnet wire affect the electromagnetic field? Young scientists will explore these and other questions at Cal State Northridge’s annual Student Research Poster Symposium, set for 10 a.m. Saturday, May 27, in the Grand Salon of the University Student Union.

The symposium features the work of students, in grades kindergarten to 12, who took part in a regional effort led by Cal State Northridge faculty and students to encourage young people’s consideration of math and the sciences as possible future careers.

“The security, health and welfare of the United States depend on producing innovative and excellent research scientists,” said CSUN biology professor Steven Oppenheimer, director of the effort. “We have to help young people realize through their experiences in the classroom that the sciences and math are fun and relevant because the responsibility of our future lies on their shoulders.”

In addition to their starring roles at the symposium, many of the students will have the opportunity to publish their work in the Library of Congress-listed Journal of Student Research Abstracts, published and edited by Oppenheimer with support from the university and Van Nuys Airport.

The journal throws the spotlight on the students’ research, providing more positive reinforcement for the selection of the sciences as the career path of choice for the young scholars.

Among the schools taking part in this year's poster symposium are Portola Magnet in Tarzana, Clark Magnet in La Crescenta, University High School in Los Angeles, Lawrence Magnet in Glatsworth, Holmes International Middle School in Northridge and Robert Fulton College Preparatory School in Van Nuys.

Northridge Alum Honored as Firefighter of the Year

Medal of Valor Winner Steve Ruda’s Journalism Training at CSUN Helped Mold His Career

Living a life of public service has brought recognition to Cal State Northridge alumus Steve Ruda, Journalism, ‘74.

A one-time seminary student, a former United States Marine and now a 27-year veteran of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), Ruda recently was selected as “Firefighter of the Year” by the Los Angeles Firefighters Association board.

At the awards luncheon attended by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Family, friends and even his eighth grade teacher, Ruda said his award was to be “shared with other firefighters.”

Recognizing others’ efforts comes naturally to Ruda, who spent six years as a public information officer (PIO) for the fire department. As a PIO, Ruda worked “fanatically” to promote his profession. “Corporations spend millions of dollars on what the media wants to give us for free, so I wanted to make sure that the coverage was the best possible,” said Ruda.

“By becoming a PIO, I was able to both fight fires as well as talk about it, finally putting all of my journalism days in college to good work,” said Ruda, whose skills were molded by the late Sam Feldman, a professor in the CSUN Journalism Department for 25 years.

"Sam Feldman was an outstanding guy," said Ruda. “He inspired me to work even harder by telling me that I was an ‘average writer’. That’s like telling a concert pianist he has arthritis.”

Feldman’s motivational push inspired a career that has been anything but average, including a 1996 Medal of Valor for rescuing a police officer while exposed to gunfire.

Ruda’s nationally recognized message—“A common field one day, a field of honor forever”—was inscribed on a quilt honoring the men and women who lost their lives on Flight 93 in September 2001. That message now serves as the theme for a Pennsylvania memorial park, currently under construction, in honor of Flight 93.

The firefighter was promoted to Captain I in 1986 and Captain II in 1990. His first station assignment as Captain I was Fire Station 103 in Northridge, close to where he spent his college years at CSUN.

“A lot of the anxiety and pressure that new captains have of knowing and understanding their district was eased for me because I was already familiar with the area,” Ruda noted. After 11 months at station 103, he was promoted to 27’s storied, 76-year history. His peers at Task Force 27 nominated Ruda for the Firefighter of the Year designation.

The award focuses on achievements of 2005, Ruda said it seems more like a lifetime achievement award. “I feel as if I have been voted into the hall of fame,” he said.
A year of stops and starts for Cal State Northridge film student Matthew Netzley has paid off. With patience and precision, Netzley and student cinematographer Andres Palencia have literally pieced together the university’s first student-produced stop-motion animation film: “The Unobtrusive Fantasy of Manny Quinn.”

Revolving around a lonely tailor’s dummy who falls in love with a theater’s leading lady, the striking five-minute film made its May 3 debut at the Cinerama and Television Arts Department’s Senior Film Showcase at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in North Hollywood.

Student films from Phillip Eriand, who directed the 25-minute Arri 35mm Project selection “Bauhaus;” Guy Noland, “Danny Boy;” and Patrick O’Reily, “Fridge,” were also showcase premiere features.

The “Manny Quinn” project began in spring 2005, when the CTVA Department “green-lighted” Netzley’s screenplay. He faced the roadblock of soldering. I burned so many pops and had to start all over,” said Netzley. “I found out that most people in this town can’t solder, but I thought I could. So I set to work on my puppets.”

The contents of the shed provided spray paint and pieces of what would become the set in the movie. Netzley then went to work on his puppets, which unexpectedly proved to be the most difficult part of his film production.

“With the puppets, I was pulling references from a ton of different sources and it was road block after road block,” he recalled. “The silliest road block was soldering. I burned myself more than I soldered.”

Netzley built his puppet cast out of a “mish-mash” of materials: aluminum wire, plumber’s epoxy, upholstery foam, plastic wrap, brass tubing, liquid latex, silicone and the clay for Manny, whose head often melted under the hot stage lights.

Problems and lengthy process notwithstanding, Netzley said he already has an idea for another film in stop-motion, a laborsome animation technique in which static objects are repeatedly shot in single frames, moved, and shot again.

“The whole film’s been one big learning experience that will help my crew and I work more efficiently in the future,” he said. With persistence and a little more puppet-making education, Netzley hopes to follow stop-motion idols Osborne and Tim Burton on the path to success.
In Brief

Julio Blanco to Join CSUB as Sciences, Math Dean

Julio Blanco, chair of the Physics and Astronomy Department at Cal State Northridge, has been appointed dean of the College of Science and Technology at California State University Bakersfield’s School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics on August 14.

White, president of physics and internationally known solar physics researcher John Lawrence, professor of physics and astronomy, said Blanco “has been one of the most outstanding educators to the members of our community.” As physics and astronomy chair during the last five years, Blanco has provided leadership in innovative curriculum development, including online courses, and is the author of several laboratory manuals.

Active in scholarly research, publication and presentations, Blanco serves as reviewer for a number of scientific journals. He is a member of professional and scientific honor groups, and is a consultant for professional and scientific honor societies.

Jazz Bands Hit High Notes at Reno Festival

The power went out just as Cal State Northridge’s Jazz “A” Band took the stage at the 2006 Reno Jazz Festival in April. Undaunted, the students played without amplification, turning in a performance that snared first place honors.

Judges at the festival, one of the nation’s largest jazz music competitions, also gave Northridge’s Vocal Jazz band first place award in its competition. The university’s Combo “I” group took third place, and its Studio Band placed fourth, beating out several higher ranking college bands.

Four Northridge students also excelled in individual performance competitions. Junior Justin Janner was named “Best College Saxophone Player,” freshman Harrison Kirk took home “Best College Trombone Player” honors, junior Adam Alix earned the “Best College Drummer” title, and senior Genevieve Ardati was recognized as “Best College Vocalist.”

“I’m so proud of our students,” said music professor Matt Harris, coordinator of CSUN’s jazz studies program. “They have worked so hard to uphold the reputation of our program. I knew that the students were really good when we went into the festival, but you never can tell what the judges are going to like from year to year. I am happy we won, although I’m more happy that we were given the opportunity to play music at such a high level.”

The Reno Jazz Festival at the University of Nevada, Reno, features performances by world-class musicians, and offers clinics, workshops and competitions for thousands of middle school, high school and college jazz aficionados.

2006 Commencement and Honors Convocation Schedule

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Works by CSUN art students in a variety of media: animation, computer and graphic design, ceramics and more. Runs through June 2. Main Art Gallery

The Making of the Book

Exhibiting five centuries of the art and craft of bookbinding and decoration. From the Oviatt Library collections. Runs through August 4. C.K. and Teresa Tseng Gallery Oviatt Library

Free

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Media Showcase

Featuring Studio Ensemble. ElizabethSELLERS, director. Mon., May 15, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Cinemathique

Screenings are free and take place in the Alan and Elaine Arrow Theater on the first floor of Manzanita Hall at the southwest corner of campus. For more info, call (818) 677-3192 or see www.cinemathique.csun.edu/html/events.html.

Music

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